Four laning of NHs in Rajasthan

*310. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will die Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Rajasthan has proposed four laning of NH-11 (Jaipur-Reengus-Sikar Road section), NH-12 (Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar road section up to MP border), NH-14 (Beawar-Pali-Sirohi road section) and NH-I8 (Beawar-Udaipur section);

(b) if so, by when these National Highways are likely to be four-laned;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the stretch between Chittorgarh to Neemuch of NH-79 and Jhalawar to MP border qualifies for four-laning; and

(d) if so, by when these stretches are likely to be four-laned?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):(a)Yes,Sir.

(b) Jaipur-Reengus-Sikar section of NH-11, Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar section of NH-12 and Beawar-Pali-Sirohi section of NH-14 have been identified for 4-laning under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III. For Jaipur-Reengus section of NH-11, Detailed Project report (DPR) has been completed. Request for prequalification (RFQ) proposal has been received for this section and is under evaluation by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). For Reengus-Sikar section of NH-11, Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar section of NH-12 and Beawar-Pali-Sirohi section of NH-14 preparation of DPRs have been taken up. Project under NHDP Phase III are targeted for completion by December 2013.

Upgradation of Beawar-Udaipur section of NH-8 has not been included in any Phase of NHDP However, preparation of Feasibility-cum-Preliminary Design Report for 4/6 laning of this section has been taken up. It is premature to indicate target for four laning of this section.

(c) and (d) In the stretch from Chittorgarh to Neemuch, the portion from Rajasthan/ Madhya Pradesh border to neemuch is not National Highway. The stretch of NH-79 between Chittorgarh and Rajasthan/Madhya Pradesh border qualifies for four-laning. There is no proposal for four-laning of this stretch at present. Jhalawar—Madhya Pradesh Border section of NH-12, does not qualify for four-laning.

Illegal coal mining

*311. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to illegal mining of coal, several tonnes of coal is being looted by coal mafia from coal fields;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the illegal coal mining activities have increased in the coal fields and the steps taken by Government to check such illegal coal mining have proved ineffective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps Government proposes to take to prevent illegal coal mining from various coal fields in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (d) Illegal mining is mostly taking place in old and abandoned mines, small and isolated patches, out crop areas and areas which are not in the leasehold areas of public sector coal companies, due to clandestine nature of illegal mining activities the exact quantum of coal so mines cannot be ascertained.

However, following the raids conducted by the security personnel of the concerned coal companies and joint raids with law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments, the quantity of coal recovered and value thereof (approximate) during the last three years are as under:

Company	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08 (prov. Upto Jan '08)	
	Qty. recovered (Approx.) (te)	App. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty. recovered (Approx.) (te)	App. Vsiue (Rs skh)	Qty. recovered (Approx.) (te)	App. Value (Rs. Lakh)
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	2481	24.31	3528	3528	1967	19.67
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	639	10.41	63	0.97	41	0.62
Central Coalfields Ltd.	5.32	5.65	404	4.04	410	7.20
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Western Coalfields Ltd.	27	0.28	39	0.41	41	0.8
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	43	0.48	541	7.15	40	0.6
Mahanandi Coalfields Ltd Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	0	
North Eastern Coalfields	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	0
TOTAL:	3722	41.13	4575	47.85	2499	2889

First Information Reports (FIRs) are lodged by the units/Areas/Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officials of the coal companies whenever cases of illegal mining of coal are detected. After lodging of FIRs, prosecution cases are launched and contested by the State Governments/Police.

In addition, the following measures are taken to address the issue of illegal mining:

(i) At the initiative of Government of India, Joint Action Committees involving State Governments and coal companies are formed to take effective steps for prevention of illegal mining. Task Force at State & District levels are formed in problem areas which review the action on regular basis.

(ii) Further, coal companies also undertake preventive measures such as filling up of rat holes, digging of trenches, erection of concrete walls, fencing with barbed wire, deployment of security and intensive patrolling of the areas etc.

(iii) A committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State for Coal to address the problem of illegal mining of coal.